

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW RACE OF PENELOPE ARGYROTIS FROM
COLOMBIA.

BY BOARDMAN CONOVER

In a small collection of birds recently received from Colombia there are two specimens of *Penelope argyrotis* from Santander del Norte. Except for examples from the Santa Marta region, a "Bogota" skin in the British Museum is the only other specimen of the species recorded from Colombia. Therefore the two were compared with series from Santa Marta, Venezuela and Ecuador. Since they proved to be quite different, they are described below.

I am indebted to Mr. W. H. Phelps of Caracas for the loan of his type of *P. a. albicauda* and to Mr. John T. Zimmer of the American Museum of Natural History for specimens of the typical race.

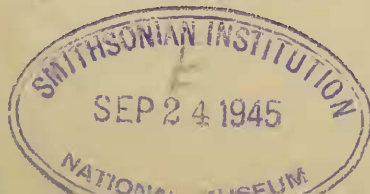
***Penelope argyrotis mesaeus* subsp. nov.**

Type from Pamplona, Santander del Norte, Colombia, elevation 4800', No. 16071, adult female in the Conover Collection, Chicago Natural History Museum. Collected October 23, 1944, by Kjell von Sneidern.

Characters.—General appearance much darker, more olivaceous than in the other known races.

Nearest in coloration to *P. a. barbata* but upper parts darker more olive greenish less copperish and upper throat unfeathered as in typical race. Also has the light edgings to the feathers of the back of the neck practically obsolete, but the upper wing coverts are narrowly edged with white. On the top of the head the light edgings are white not gray and confined to the forehead and the superciliary stripe is very narrow and rather indistinct except behind the eye. Underneath the white edgings are not as heavy especially on the flanks and the lower belly and crissum are duller less rufous.

Differs from the typical race by having the dorsal surface darker, an olive rather than a bronze green. The underparts are also darker especially the chest and upper breast.



Differs from the type of *P. a. albicauda* in the same way as it differs from the typical race and in addition has the white edgings to the feathers of the mantle practically obsolete and the tip of the tail light cinnamon rufous instead of pale buffy.

Differs from *P. a. colombiana* by being darker more olivaceous throughout; by having the light edgings to the feathers of the upperparts restricted to the forehead and upper wing coverts, by having the sides of the face white, not gray, and the feathers of the crest broader and blunter.

Because of Mr. Todd's absence from the country I have been unable to make comparison with examples of *P. a. olivaceiceps*. However the original description of that race states that it is like the typical form but with the crest darker, olivaceous black, less brownish. Therefore, *mescus* should differ from it in the same manner as it differs from the nominate form, except for the color of the crest which must be very similar in the two races.

Remarks.—This new race is intermediate in character between the typical race from northeastern Venezuela and *barbata* from souhtwestern Ecuador. Like the former it has the upper throat unfeathered, while in its generally darker coloration and reduction of the pale margins to both upper and under parts it resembles the latter. The dark coloration of *mescus*, however, is even more olivaceous than in *barbata*.

The male of the pair from Pamplona is in a rather worn and faded plumage. Because of this it has a less olivaceous more coppery sheen to the upperparts. However, even in this faded condition it is darker than the darkest specimen in unfaded plumage from the Andes of Venezuela.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Penelope argyrotis mesæus.—2: Colombia (Pamplona, Santander del Norte, 2).

Penelope argyrotis argyrotis.—8: Venezuela (Capas, Merida, 3; La Azulita, Merida, 3; Valencia, Carabobo, 2).

Penelope argyrotis albicauda.—1: Venezuela (La Sabana, Rio Negro, Perija, 1).

Penelope argyrotis colombiana.—2: Colombia (Vista Nieve, Santa Marta, 2).

Penelope argyrotis barbata.—5: Ecuador (Malacatos, Loja, 4; Huaico, Loja, 1).